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Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 4 FEBRUARY 1968

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

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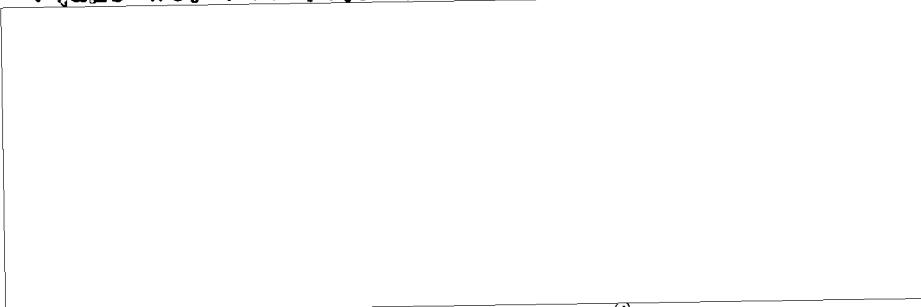
SUBJECT COMMENTS OF FINANCE MINISTER LUU VAN TINH
 ON THE PERFORMANCE OF PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN
 VAN LOC DURING TET OFFENSIVE CRISIS

ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON (4 FEBRUARY 1968)

FIELD NO. FVS-16.506

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SOURCE



MINISTER OF FINANCE, LUU VAN TINH, STATED ON
 4 FEBRUARY THAT PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN VAN LOC'S PERFORMANCE
 DURING THE PRESENT CRISIS HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS INABILITY
 TO DEAL WITH MAJOR PROBLEMS. TINH SAID THAT VARIOUS
 MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS SEEMED TO BE UNABLE TO FUNCTION

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PROPERLY. SPECIFICALLY, HE NOTED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND HEALTH MINISTRIES WERE HANDLING THEIR MISSIONS POORLY AND THAT MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND REFUGEES NGUYEN PHUC QUE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO USE THE RESOURCES AT HIS DISPOSAL. TINH ATTRIBUTED THIS SITUATION IN PART TO A LACK OF POSITIVE DIRECTION FROM PRIME MINISTER LOC, AND SAID THAT LOC HAS NOT SHOWN ANY LEADERSHIP QUALITIES DURING THE CRISIS.

2. LOC TOLD TINH ON 4 FEBRUARY THAT HIS PRIMARY CONCERN NOW WAS THAT HIS CABINET WOULD BE DISSOLVED THROUGH MILITARY PRESSURE AND THAT PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU WOULD RULE INDEFINITELY BY DECREE.

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